B	_	HEARING EXAMINER F REDMOND	
In the Matter of the Appeal	of	Appeal No. 1 AND 2019 00701	
Eugene Zakhareyev		Appeal No. LAND-2018-00701	
Of the June 12, 2018 appro	oval	Of LAND-2013-00171	
Site Plan Entitlement LANI 00171 Decision for the Anj	uman-Ę-	APPELLANT ZAKHAREYEV'S	
Burhani Mosque at 15252 Street, Redmond	NE 51 <sup>st</sup>	PRE-HEARING BRIEF	
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APPELLANT ZAKHAREYEV'S PRE-HEARING BRIEF - 1

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### 1. INTRODUCTION.

This land use appeal challenges the approval of a site plan entitlement (SPE) by the City of Redmond ("City") for the proposal by Anjuman-e-Burhani ("AEB") to construct a mosque at 15252 N.E. 51st Street. The proposed building would be a 22,627 square foot facility, which would include classrooms, assembly areas, kitchen and dining facilities, a "guest apartment," together with 36 parking spaces on the north side of the building. The property is zoned residential, R-5 and is bounded on the north and east by single family residences.

The building is located at the northeast corner of the interchange between State Route 520 and N.E. 51<sup>st</sup> Street. Existing access to the property is 14 feet based on decisions made by the WSDOT during the planning for this interchange in the 1960's. Despite the restriction against further access found in the deed from WSDOT (Exhibit Z-13), the City granted AEB a special easement allowing the applicant to widen the driveway entry to twenty feet (Exhibit Z-29).

On June 13, 2018, the City's Technical Review committee issued a Notice of Decision (hereinafter "Decision") approving the AEB application, which included the easement later granted by the City to AEB. Exhibit C-03.

Eugene Zakhareyev filed a timely appeal to the SPE on June 27, 2018 raising eleven separate allegations of error. Exhibit Z-03. A prehearing conference was held on July 13, 2018, and on July 16, 2018, the "Order Setting Hearing and Pre-hearing Schedule" was issued by the Examiner.

On August 10, the City and AEB made motions to dismiss several issues. By order of August 24, the Examiner dismissed Issues 1 and 2, but allowed other issues to proceed to hearing.

The PHO order permitted pre-hearing briefs to be submitted by September 4.

In this brief, the Appellant will present legal argument on each of the nine errors presented in the appeal statement. Each error will be separately referenced and will contain a factual statement and legal authority. The brief will be supported by the exhibits identified in the exhibit and witness list.

As will be seen, the City made errors of fact and law in the Decision which require either outright reversal or remand.

## 2. ISSUE 3: THE CITY INCORRECTLY CALCULATED THE AMOUNT OF PARKING REQUIRED FOR THE AEB FACILITY.

Issue No. 3 indicates that the required parking for the facility was based on an erroneous interpretation of City codes. In fact, the proposal does not provide the minimum necessary parking for this religious facility and the Hearing Examiner should remand to amend their site plan to reduce the size of the building or otherwise provide for the correct number of parking stalls. That issue will be discussed below.

Mr. Zakhareyev's Issue No. 5 also indicates that parking proposed is insufficient because it was not calculated based on assembly uses. See Section 4 of this brief (page 13). In addition, Issue 10, discussed at page 40 herein, demonstrates that traffic and parking must account for growth in membership of the mosque.

#### **FACTS**

The Technical Committee Decision states that

The applicant has demonstrated through their plans how "fixed seat" is applied within the worship area for the purpose of prayer rugs and therefore established compliance with table 21.08.080.C

The Decision goes on to state the seating capacity for the project is 150 seats. Exhibit C-03.

In its response to the residents' comments, the city staff explains how seating capacity was calculated (Exhibit Z-40, the City's response to residents' comments, p.9):

The applicant has provided the City with an analysis and layout which demonstrates the seating arrangement in the form of prayer rugs, and the number of prayer rugs or fixed seats that would occupy each of the assembly areas. Based on the applicant's analysis; a fixed seat equates to a prayer rug, since each rug is woven into floor, affixed onto the floor or has permanent placement outlined/marked. Therefore, square footage was not used to calculate the seating capacity. A similar approach was used by the Islamic center of Redmond. The City will also place a condition on the project which limits the occupancy of the assembly area to the number indicated on the application. MAPS and ICOR did not utilize the seven square feet per person ratio.

The same document provides another version of the calculation from the applicant (Exhibit Z-40, p.33):

..., the space available for prayers is the square footage of the Masjid, reduced by access around occupied prayer rugs on the ends of the room and the area reserved for the podium. After subtracting the area designated for "aisles" and podium, the Masjid provides 1,911 square feet for congregants' prayer rugs, i.e., initial worshippers. Dividing the 1,911 square feet available for congregants by 13 square feet yields a space for a total of 147 individuals.

The Technical Committee decision states (Exhibit C-03, p.7) that

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The project proposes for entitlement of 147 "fixed seats" within the assembly area, this generates a minimum requirement of 29 and a maximum of 49 parking stalls. The project is proposing 36 parking stalls to be construed on-site, therefore meeting the parking requirements as established by Redmond Zoning Code at table 21.08.280C.<sup>1</sup>

### LAW AND ANALYSIS

The project parcel is zoned R-5, a zone where religious institutions are an allowed use. RZC 21.08.080 "R-5 Single-family Urban Residential." RZC 21.08.280 provides the method for calculating seating capacity:

- B. Calculation of Seating Capacity. For the purposes of this regulation, a seat shall be defined as either:
  - 1. One individual fixed seat; or
  - 2. A length of 18 inches on a pew or bench; or
  - 3. A measurement of seven square feet per person for the area seating the general assembly with movable chairs or other portable seating fixtures. The total area includes aisle space, but excludes areas such as stage and podium areas, space for musical instruments, and lobbies.

Mosques customarily use prayer rugs. Since prayer rugs are not affixed to the floor, are personal (belonging to specific worshipper) and typically brought in by the worshippers for the service only, the prayer rug would clearly fall under the definition of a "portable seating fixture". RZC 21.08.280.B.3.

Moreover, under International Building Code (IBC) Section 202, fixed seating is unambiguously defined as follows:

FIXED SEATING. Furniture or fixture designed and installed for the use of sitting and secured in place including bench-type seats and seats with or without backs or arm rests.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As explained in Section 8 of this brief (page 45) the site plan must be revised because of application of RZC chapter 21.28 regarding "High Capacity Transit Corridor Preservation."

The IBC is adopted via Redmond Municipal Code Title 15, 15.08.020. According to RZC 21.02.060 Relationship to Other Codes, the RZC needs to be read in light of RMC regulation:

development, readers are advised to consult both the RZC and the RMC.

Clearly, the fixed seat definition is not applicable to the prayer rugs. Thus the seating capacity for the mosque needs to be calculated using the measurement of seven square feet per person (for portable seating fixtures) and square footage of the areas associated with assembly use.

In order to understand all of the regulations that may relate to land use and

In contrast with the city assertion, the parking calculation documents for MAPS and ICOR mosques in Redmond did not use fixed seat measurement for the calculation of parking demand but used square footage per worshipper (Exhibit Z-41, MAPS traffic study, p.4 and Exhibit Z-42, ICOR traffic study, p.1).

A second version of the seating capacity calculations (as provided in the applicant's answer in Exhibit Z-40, p.33) uses 13 square feet per worshipper to calculate the seating capacity. However, Redmond Zoning Code does not allow variance on the measurement per person to be used for the seating capacity calculations; seven square feet per person must be used. If a different calculation of "seating capacity" is appropriate for a mosque, the proper way to address this is not via a variance but by a legislative amendment to the code.

The applicant was aware that their proposal does not conform with Redmond Zoning Code. In a memo written during the pre-application stage (Exhibit Z-43,

applicant's memo to the city), the applicant sought to change the way code defines the seating capacity ("we are seeking a redefinition of "Section 21.08.280...Calculation of Seating Capacity"). According to this memo from 2013,

Design capacity for the prayer areas of the Mosque is 126 on the Main Floor and 94 on the Upper Floor, for a potential limit of 220 persons for this use, size and layout.

(Exhibit Z-43, p1.) The applicant was well aware that the calculations of seating capacity have critical impact on the project permitting (Exhibit Z-44, staff memo to DRB, including board minutes for July 18, 2013 meeting, p.19):

The facility is able to be permitted in this zone because there are fewer than 250 individuals in the religious community.

Applying RZC definitions and using the prayer area of 2,858 sf for calculations (Exhibit Z-88, floor plan) yields seating capacity of well over 250 (2,858 / 7 = 408 or excluding aisle space as defined by the applicant 1,911 / 7 = 273), instead of 150 as provided in the application. For religious projects with seating capacity over 250 seats, RZC 21.08.080 requires the Conditional Use Permit process.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INTERPRETATION

The Technical Committee decision references an Administrative Interpretation dated April 25, 2015, to provide and support an alternative definition of the "fixed seat", specific to the AEB land use application. Exhibit C-03, p.5.

The Administrative Interpretation referenced in the Technical Committee decision does not constitute an issued final decision according to Type I Review

process provisions of RZC. Therefore, the interpretation cannot be used to substantiate the Technical Committee decision or as an approval criterion.

As established above, according to RZC 21.08.280 the seating capacity should be calculated using a measurement of seven square feet per worshipper. According to the calculation method mandated by the RZC, the seating capacity is well over 250 persons, resulting in the minimum of fifty-five (55) parking spaces required (for net assembly space of 1,911 sf; 1,911 / 7 = 273 seats; 273 / 5 = 54.6). That does not include additional parking required for the parsonage and other accessory uses such as shuttle van storage.

The city staff was aware that using methods compliant with RZC will require an increased number of stalls. The email from the project planner on June 22, 2012 (Exhibit Z-50, Thara Johnson email) indicates that:

The parking ratio gets a little more involved with mosque uses. Essentially they would require a minimum of 50 spaces or maximum of 83 spaces, if they use our parking ratio which allows fixed seats or 7 square feet per person as the unit. I would say they should probably add more spaces since they are pretty close to the minimum.

The appellant is sympathetic with the desire of the applicant to receive a variance from the provisions of the zoning code. However, the code as written only allows seven feet per person as a measure of seating capacity with portable seating fixtures.

The definition of the seat as it relates to calculations of seating capacity in RZC is straightforward and not ambiguous and speaks to the intent of the City Council that enacted it. Had the Council intended to introduce the dependency on square footage

per person based on the congregation's religious practices it could have done so.

Since AEB purchased this property in 2010 (Exhibit Z-17) and applied for permits in 2014, there has been sufficient time to apply for the code amendment.

The courts held "agencies do not have the authority to make rules which amend or change legislative enactments", *Washington Federation of State Employees v. State Personnel Board*, 54 Wn. App. 305, 308, 773 P.2d 421 (1989). Thus the city must determine the intent from the statute itself.

The courts have also held that when the statute is unambiguous it does not require an interpretation:

A rule of statutory interpretation which is frequently encountered asserts that a statute which is clear and unambiguous on its face need not and cannot be interpreted by a court and that only those statutes which are of doubtful meaning are subject to the process of statutory interpretation. As declared in a leading case: "Where the language is plain and admits of no more than one meaning the duty of interpretation does not arise and the rules which are to aid doubtful meanings need no discussion."

Nisqually Delta Ass 'n v. City of Dupont, 103 Wn.2d 720, 745, 696 P.2d 1222 (1985).

And "the City must interpret and enforce the City Code as written, without adding new criteria on a case-by-case basis." *Schroeder v. Bellevue*, 83 Wn. App. 188, 193, 920 P.2d 12 1216 (1996) (which does not allow the city to modify the seating capacity criteria based on the type of the religion). In addition, the Washington Supreme Court has said:

We have held that:

The acts of administering a zoning ordinance do not go back to the questions of policy and discretion which were settled at the time of the adoption of the ordinance. *Administrative authorities are properly* 

concerned with questions of compliance with the ordinance, not with its wisdom.

(Italics ours.) State ex rel. Ogden v. Bellevue, 45 Wn.2d 492, 495, 275 P.2d 899 (1954). This rule is of equal force in the administration of a building code. To permit another course of administrative behavior, thereby inviting discretion, may well result in violations of the equal protection of the laws. The code is positive in its requirements and contains no exceptional procedures like those employed here; hence, no city officer was authorized to permit its violation. The duty of those empowered to enforce the codes and ordinances of the city is to insure compliance therewith and not to devise anonymous procedures available to the citizenry in an arbitrary and uncertain fashion.

Eastlake Com. Coun. v. Roanoke Assoc. Inc, 82 Wn.2d 475, 513 P.2d 36 (1973).

Thus the Examiner should remand the application to the City to provide parking based on seating capacity, calculated according to RZC.<sup>2</sup>

# 3. ISSUE 4: THE CITY ERRED IN NOT REQUIRING ADDITIONAL BUILDING SET BACKS.

#### **FACTS**

AEB's plans show that the building has 20 foot setbacks on three sides (Exhibit C-06, architecture plans). There are two architectural elements with the height of over 30 feet – the minaret and the mechanical room. The maximum building height (at the top of the minaret) is 45 feet above the average grade. Architectural plans do not show the building height at the top of the mechanical room.

The Technical Committee decision states that the proposal meets the setback requirements:

All setbacks at least 20', building is 30' from average grade.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> As explained in Section 8 of this brief (page 45) and referenced in Footnote 1, the site plan must be revised because of application of RZC chapter 21.28 regarding High Capacity Trans Corridor Preservation."

### LAW AND ANALYSIS

The city staff has provided multiple interpretations as to how the project setbacks are compliant with the code. In response to the citizens' comments (Exhibit Z-40, p.4), the city stated:

The City's code requires that religious facilities maintain a height of 30', whereas a single family home would be allowed to achieve a height of 35'. Setbacks for religious facilities require a setback of 20' from all property lines, whereas a single-family home could be located as close to 5' from a property line. Any additional building height above 30 feet, for structures such as minarets or bell towers, the proposal is required to provide an increased setback of 5' for every 1' in height over 30'. This translates to a setback of 75' for the portion of the building with a minaret which has a height of 46' from the average grade.

In a document presented to Design Review Board on April 6, 2017 in response to the residents' comments (Exhibit Z-52, staff memo to DRB) the city staff stated

The plans show the Average Grade (Average Finish Grade) and demonstrate that the structure is under the 30 foot height limit with the exception of the dome and mechanical room. The domed portion of the structure is considered a symbolic religious icon that would be commonly found on a mosque. This is separate and not part of the calculations for the building setback.

Both interpretations presented by the city staff (Exhibit Z-40 & Exhibit Z-52 above) are not consistent with RZC definitions and do not include the mechanical room height in setback calculations.

RZC 21.08.280.D mandates a minimum setback of 20 feet with an increased setback of five feet for every one foot in building height over 30 feet, to the maximum height of 50 feet, for any size of religious facility:

- D. Development Criteria for Seating Capacities in a Residential Zone.
- 1. Places of worship with a seating capacity of less than 250 seats:

...

c. Buildings shall maintain a minimum setback of 20 feet from all property lines; building setbacks shall be increased by five feet for every one foot d. The maximum building height does not exceed 50 feet inclusive of

2. Places of worship with a seating capacity of between 250 to 750 seats:

- b. Buildings shall maintain a minimum setback of 20 feet from all
- c. The maximum building height may not exceed 50 feet, inclusive of steeples, bell towers, crosses, or other symbolic religious icons. However, building setbacks shall be increased five feet for every one foot

In RZC 21.78 (H Definitions), "building height" is defined as follows:

Height of Building or Structure. The vertical distance measured from the average finished grade around the building to the highest point of the structure. The approved average finished grade shall be measured by taking the smallest rectangle around the building and averaging the elevations at the midpoint of

In RZC 21.78 (A Definitions), "average grade level" is defined as follows:

Average Grade Level. The average of the natural or existing topography of the portion of the lot, parcel, or tract of real property which will be directly under the proposed building or structure. In the case of structures to be built over water, average grade level shall be the elevation of the ordinary high water mark. Calculation of the average grade level shall be made by averaging the ground elevations at the midpoint of all exterior walls of the proposed building or

The highest points of the building are the minaret dome and mechanical room, both over 30'. The setback should be calculated as applied to the building envelope per RZC 21.78 definition and not just to the portion of the building with a minaret or

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### mechanical room:

Setback. The distance between a property line and the corresponding parallel setback line.

Setback Line. A line beyond which, toward a property line, no structure greater than 30 inches above finished grade may extend or be placed except as permitted by the regulations of this title.

As noted above, RZC definitions are meticulous, unambiguously defining "Height of Building or Structure", "Average Grade Level", "Setback" and "Setback Line". Likewise, the requirement for all religious structures to have building setbacks "increased by five feet for every one foot in building height over 30 feet" is unambiguous and straightforward.

The courts held that legislative intent reflected in the code is not susceptible to the City interpretation, and the unambiguous rules does not require any interpretation and are not open to discussion, as described in Section 2 of the brief.

In summary, the AEB proposal should be remanded to the City to require a revision to the project that increases setbacks consistent with building height or reduce the height of the building.

# 4. <u>ISSUE 5: THE PARKING PROVIDED IS INSUFFICIENT TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSEMBLY USES.</u>

### **FACTS**

The Technical Committee decision states that:

The project proposes for entitlement of 147 "fixed seats" within the assembly area, this generates a minimum requirement of 29 and a maximum of 49 parking stalls. The project is proposing 36 parking stalls to be construed on-site, therefore meeting the parking requirements as established by Redmond Zoning Code at table 21.08.280C.

Exhibit C-03, p.7.

#### LAW AND ANALYSIS

RZC 21.08.280.C.2 reads as follows:

2. The use shall comply with the parking regulations **for assembly uses**, except that in no event shall parking be in excess of one space per three seats in a residential zone.

(Emphasis added.) This regulation is <u>unique</u> to religious facilities in <u>residential</u> areas; religious institutions in other zones have fixed parking requirements.

Under the International Building Code (IBC), Assembly Uses include community halls, community indoor recreation and arts, entertainment and recreation facilities. In RZC each of these uses requires parking "Adequate to accommodate peak use." See e.g., RZC 21.12.080B, 21.12.070B, and 21.08.020B. Indeed, the phrase "Adequate to accommodate peak use" appears in many sections of the Redmond code relating to parking. This reflects a determination of the City Council that overflow parking for large, unusual events not be permitted to impact adjacent properties in residential areas.

The IBC is adopted via Redmond Municipal Code Title 15, 15.08.020.

According to RZC 21.02.060 Relationship to Other Codes, RZC needs to be read in light of RMC regulation:

In order to understand all of the regulations that may relate to land use and development, readers are advised to consult both the RZC and the RMC.

The "peak use" for a religious facility does not necessarily correspond with religious services, and will include social events such as weddings or other meetings. In fact,

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the project name as submitted and discussed at the community meetings was "Anjuman E-Burhani Community Center" (Exhibit Z-44, DRB minutes, p. 18 & p.29) indicating that religious use is not the only projected use, may not even be the main use, and that this project may well be on par with community center uses in code. The worship area at 2,858 sf represents an insignificant portion (12.6%) of the overall 22,000+ sf building that includes multi-purpose areas, a kitchen, a storage area, a library, two residencies and twelve classrooms.

Even the applicant has indicated that peak use will not be associated with the religious use. See JTE traffic study (Exhibit Z-54, JTE traffic and parking letter, p.7):

The Anjuman E-Burhani Community Complex would generate the most trips on a Saturday or Sunday event such as a Wedding.

Moreover, there is nothing preventing the applicant from renting out the space available (Exhibit Z-70) and there is nothing in the Decision to condition the peak use not associated with religious assembly.

Based on project documents, the building footprint undertook consistent increase at the expense of parking, thus:

- In pre-application narrative from Feb 23, 2012 (Exhibit Z-53) the applicant discusses building of 18,382 sf with 58 parking stalls onsite.
- In a January 23, 2013 narrative (Exhibit Z-43) the building footprint increased to 20,087 sf with 46 parking stalls.
- On August 22, 2013 at Design Review Board (Exhibit Z-44, staff memo to DRB, including board minutes for August 22, 2013 meeting, p.30) the project presented was 22,467 sf with 42 parking spaces.
- In the April 6, 2017 Design Review Board staff memo (Exhibit Z-44, staff memo to DRB, p.1) the project is 22,657 sf with 36 parking stalls.
- As approved, the project is increased to approximately 22,000 sf and with parking reduced to 36 stalls (Exhibit C-03).

The same trend is observed in the applicant traffic studies – while the traffic projections did not change, the size of the building increased and parking allocated decreased (Exhibit Z-54, p.5; Z-56, p.4; Z-58, p.4).

The applicant is aware that more parking is required and the Decision includes a provision for 29 additional "valet" parking stalls (Exhibit C-03, p.7). However, Redmond Zoning Code makes no provisions for using valet parking as a substitute for required parking stalls on site. The neighborhood already has issues with the Metro commuters overflow parking (Exhibits Z-09 & Z-10, photos of parking), and the Decision does not address those issues or condition the development in any way.

The applicant's description of "valet parking" does not actually include valet service (Exhibit Z-40, p.29):

When the AEB facility's full parking capacity is needed, AEB congregation members will park their own cars. Separate valet service is not required, meaning no pick-up point, staffing, or insurance is required. Wait times should not be an issue for any typical event, as the facility has adequate space for cars as they park.

That goes against the very definition of "valet parking":

Valet parking is a service that operates at places such as hotels and restaurants, in which customers' cars are parked by an attendant.

Collins English Dictionary. Thus, the valet parking mentioned in the decision is actually double- or triple- self-parking on the lot by the patrons themselves.

As shown earlier, the City should recalculate the seating capacity according to RZC for assembly uses. Then, the required parking calculation should be based on peak use rather than seating capacity should the two be different.

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## 5. ISSUE 6: CITY ERRED IN REVIEWING TRAFFIC IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT.

#### **FACTS**

The city staff has been presented with multiple versions of traffic impact studies by the applicant, authored first by JTE and then by TSI traffic engineers. Since 2012, the traffic analysis has been changed multiple times.

Appellant maintains that the traffic studies provided to the City do not meet the "professional standard of care" and are both incomplete and inadequate. Here is the list of the documents provided by the applicant.

- Exhibit Z-58 AEB Traffic And Parking Letter by JTE, dated June 5, 2012
- Exhibit Z-56 AEB Traffic And Parking Letter by JTE, dated April 19, 2013
- Exhibit Z-57 AEB Traffic And Parking Letter by JTE, dated May 28, 2013
- Exhibit Z-55 AEB Traffic And Parking Letter by JTE, dated March 15, 2014
- Exhibit Z-54 AEB Traffic And Parking Letter by JTE, dated December 20, 2016
- Exhibit C-12 AEB response to WSDOT comments by TSI, dated 24 July, 2017.pdf 27.07.2018
- Exhibit Z-86 AEB follow up to WSDOT by TSI, dated November 16, 2017.pdf 27.07.2018

Those traffic studies use different data as to the proposed building square footage and number of parking stalls and yet arrive at the same trip forecasts. With the multiple documents submitted, there is not a single document that conforms to the professional standard of review and addresses provided feedback.

The applicant's traffic studies generated critical comments submitted by TENW (retained by Microsoft) and William Popp Assoc. (retained by the neighborhood residents):

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- Exhibit Z-81, TENW comments on JTE Traffic and Parking Letter, dated April 1, 2014
- Exhibit Z-80, William Popp Assoc. on JTE Traffic and Parking Letter, dated March 23, 2017
- Exhibit Z-87 Memo from William Popp Assoc to WSDOT on subject of TSI responses to WSDOT comments, dated September 14, 2017.pdf

Appellant has never received response addressing the issues raised in the William Popp Assoc. memo (Exhibit Z-80; see also Exhibit Z-01), even though it was presented as part of SEPA DNS comments as well as at the face to face meeting with then Planning Director Rob Odle on April 17, 2014 (Exhibit Z-82).

Furthermore, the Appellant was not able to discover a single document by the city staff indicating formal review of the critiques, the applicant responses (if any) or the applicant's traffic studies. The Decision does not address the traffic issues or provide any indication of what documents were reviewed by the city staff.

Moreover, even the applicant was not notified of critical comments availability and had to learn about the comments via social media (Exhibit Z-78):

Shanni found a blog post today that included a Microsoft letter addressed to you with an attachment from TENW, a transportation engineering firm, who apparently was requested by Microsoft to review traffic/parking documentation.

The Appellant has no knowledge whether other traffic study comments submitted were made available to the applicant.

The issues brought up in critiques by TENW and William Popp Assoc. were echoed by WSDOT staff in the process of their review of JTE Traffic and Parking Letters (exhibit Z-83 and exhibit Z-84) and are still of concern according to William Popp Assoc recent report (exhibit Z-01). In that case, the applicant's new traffic

engineer, TSI, chose to respond to the comments (Exhibit C-12 and Exhibit Z-86). However, the actual traffic study used by the city for review was never updated and there is no indication on whether the responses from TSI were used in review of the project's impact. The Appellant has provided a response to TSI assertions (Exhibit Z-87).

The Appellant asserts that the Traffic and Parking Letter presented by the applicant and used by the city staff for review is insufficient. The critiques by the certified traffic engineers should be addressed and updated traffic and parking impacts then evaluated. Moreover, the Transportation Management Plan presented by the applicant is inadequate as it relies on data from the above-mentioned traffic impact assessments by JTE.

The traffic studies are defective in a several particulars.

## a. Project Scope and Growth Forecast

Based on the proposed size, the AEB building would be one the largest facilities for Dawoodi Bohra in the US (Exhibit Z-80, p. 9).

Reviewing similar facilities in other states leads one to estimate potential growth range at the proposed location. For instance, a 30,000 sf facility in Chicago serves about 200 families (as of 2000); using weighted average on this and other facilities would result in comparable capacity of 162 families for the AEB project (Exhibit Z-80, p. 2).

Additionally, the new location may be conductive to growth in its own right:

With the large, attractive new facility and its proximity to Microsoft (60% of AEB

members are Microsoft employees) and other Eastside tech industries, a two to three-fold growth in membership could be a reality. A good case can be made that this facility will accommodate well in excess of 250 attendees on numerous occasions.

(Exhibit Z-80, p.6).

The applicant's traffic studies make no effort to procure comparable national data or evaluate how its new location may affect the growth of its membership. As it currently stands, the growth forecast is insufficient and unrealistic, affecting traffic and parking project portions of the traffic assessment studies and the TMP.

## b. Trip Generation

Trip generation is one of most important components of traffic impact assessment studies. Throughout the years (starting 2011), the applicant's engineers have used multiple techniques to justify low peak hour traffic numbers; however, the numbers are not supported either by ITE data or the applicant's local study.

AEB engineers maintain that the proposed project is unique in its traffic impacts and thus projections from the Institute of Transport Engineers (ITE) manuals for the mosque land use are not applicable.

JTE studies used ITE numbers for the church land use. This approach has been critiqued by different professionals (by TENW Exhibit Z-81, by WPA Exhibit Z-80, p.2, by WSDOT, Exhibit Z-83). Those comments went unaddressed and JTE documents unchanged until 2017, when new traffic engineers for the applicant (TSI) provided two additional memos (C-12, Z-86). TSI tried to address the previous comments and performed a three-day local study, which then was used to substantiate

the new trip generation numbers (C-12, p.4); and then performed comparative trip generation analysis (Z-86).

In the latest TSI memos, the engineers made multiple assumptions. Thus, in a memo from July, 2017, TSI asserts that:

During weekdays, a typical prayer service outside of Ramadan is anticipated to generate between 50% and 75% of traffic and parking as the recent Sunday prayer and community event:

- 8 to 17 peak hour trips
- 20 to 38 persons
- 8 to 17 parked vehicles

(Exhibit C-12, p.4.) The justification for use of the Sunday event with application of 50 to 75% to obtain a weekday prayer service attendance estimate is not provided but is certainly needed. In its November, 2017 document TSI engineers decide to use community size as most indicative of the future trips (Exhibit Z-86, p.2):

The community size variable was included with the past study. Community size, which can be related to maximum attendance, provides a more measurable relationship to trip generation than building area for a "mosque" use

Again, the justification for the assertion is not provided.

The memos by TSI use a three day local study, deriving arbitrary numbers for future utilization whereas a whole year of data is readily available (see TMP, Z-79). Using this available data should have allowed TSI to calculate the number of days where the facility will have different utilization patterns. The list, based on the applicant information, is extensive (and different from what TSI comes up with).

The full list of events as mentioned in the JTE study (Z-57, p.4):

Daily prayer services (every day, three times a day)

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- Friday afternoon prayer service
- Ramadan (30 days a year)
- Ashara Mubaraka (10 days a year)
- Special congregation gathering
- School (every Saturday apart from the summer months)
- Community events birthdays or weddings (once a month)
- Community gathering (once or twice a month)

The possibility of renting out space, and what impact that may have, is not even mentioned in the TSI materials.

And finally, the applicant documents do not provide realistic numbers to estimate the maximum trip generation based on building area or potential congregation growth. The estimates in the JTE and TSI documents are not reconciled and use very different methodologies to justify the same low trip projections.

The appellant believes that the trip generation studies provided by the applicant should rely on one year of data available, use a full set of events and use building area for the projections. The studies should also reflect change of location and increase in building size to forecast for greater utilization.

The new Mosque is likely to generate substantially more street peak hour as well as project peak hour traffic on weekdays and weekends than the current project traffic study has predicted.

(Exhibit Z-80, p.6).

## c. Traffic Volume

The peak hour traffic volumes should be adjusted for the possibility of traffic surges, as most events occur with the participants arriving during short amounts of time. The effects of traffic surge would be to multiply volumes for full hour LOS:

Assuming the 65 vehicle lot capacity as a weekday peak hour demand event, the equivalent hourly vehicle impact would be 260 equivalent hourly vehicles (4 X 65) or 32% more than that of Microsoft's equivalent exiting hourly traffic at 154th Ave NE10. This is not a minor traffic generator!

(Exhibit Z-80, p.4).

None of the documents presented by the applicant address the surge possibility during the occasions when the facility runs at the capacity.

Moreover, the scenarios of the parking full utilization (65 parking stalls) and overflow parking (overflow parking offsite, shuttle over to the site) should include trips of vehicles arriving at the site to find the lot full or shuttle trips to/from offsite parking lots. The applicant engineers did not include those trips in their projections either.

## d. Trip Distribution

The traffic studies do not provide trip distribution figures for the mosque traffic (i.e. allocation of the project's vehicle trips to the surrounding street system). The issue was brought up by WSDOT in their comments (Exhibit Z-83). And yet the trip distribution is absent from all versions of JTE studies (Exhibits Z-54 to Z-58), and TSI provided only arbitrary travel routes (Exhibit C-12, p.2). These comments from William Popp Associates were submitted to WSDOT and the City in 2017:

The trip routings presented for almost all quadrants are those necessary to overcome making U-turns at the 154th Ave NE intersection with NE 51st St. Some are significantly out of the way and would be unintuitive for most motorists. One improbable scenario accrues to the traffic arriving via SR 520 from the north wherein it must travel south to NE 40th St and then back north via 156th Ave NE and NE 51st St. The alternative probable routing for that trip would be via SR901 and then NE 51st Ave NE but the TSI figure doesn't suggest it.

(Exhibit Z-01, p.5).

It should be easy to perform actual trip distribution analysis since the AEB community is membership based and addresses of the members are available.

The right-in/right-out access to the site may also result in increased number of U-turns at 154<sup>th</sup> Ave NE/NE 51<sup>st</sup> Street intersection:

Supposedly the AEB community will be advised and will follow these routes for Mosque arrivals. The most likely outcome is a significant amount of U-turning traffic will occur at the 154th Ave NE intersection as other routings can appear unnecessary and even bizarre to drivers.

(Exhibit Z-87, p.3). The intersection has limited entry sight distance (ESD) and stopping sight distances (SSD) (Exhibit Z-04, p.4). That makes U-turns at the intersection not only dangerous but also illegal due to ESD being under 500'.<sup>3</sup>

## e. Parking Demand

Correct assessment of parking demand for the subject project is of particular importance as the offsite parking is not readily available in the vicinity. The public street parking is already heavily utilized (Exhibits Z-09 & Z-10); at any rate offsite street parking cannot be used as mitigation (RZC 21.08.280.C.5 "Off-site parking in residential zones shall be limited to lots shared with existing institutional uses, such as schools").

Using Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE) projections for mosques yields parking demand very different from what is provided by the applicants' traffic engineers (Exhibit Z-80, pp.5-6). The mosques' demands are different from the typical churches:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> RCW 46.41.295(2): "No vehicle shall be turned so as to proceed in the opposite direction upon any curve, or upon the approach to or near the crest of a grade, where such vehicle cannot be seen by the

What is clear from the activity history of AEB Seattle Masjid and the narrative in the TMP, the Muslim religion requires an exceptional amount of involvement of its congregation. The disparity between ITE data for Mosque and that for Church is approximately two-fold, i.e. "Mosque" has twice the parking demand per 000 sf of building as does Church.

Moreover, other uses apart from religious assembly use must be considered. While the applicant's engineers readily concede that such uses may generate the most demand (Exhibit Z-54, p.9 "... Complex would generate the most trips on a Saturday or Sunday event such as a Wedding"), parking analysis is confined to seating capacity for religious assembly and valet parking as a mitigation is introduced. However, as noted above at section 4, Issue 5, valet parking is not code approved mitigation and the applicant version of it equates to simple double- and triple- parking on site (which is not allowed by code either).

Throughout the parking assessments, the applicant's engineers allege that 36 parking stalls will be adequate for most days of operation; and using the data provided by the applicant "(a)t the Kirkland Prayer Center in the 2012-2013 data year there were 16 days with 37 to 50 parked vehicles" (Exhibit Z-80, p.5). With the new facility ten times the size of the current leased space and adding a multitude of amenities, there will be more days with planned parking proving insufficient.

Looking at national data for Dawoodi Bohra mosques, the number of parking stalls required will be much greater than the 36 stalls proposed:

..., the weighted average parking supply is 6.12 stalls/000 sf which <u>would</u> <u>translate to a parking supply of 139 stalls needed for the proposal</u> (emphasis original)

driver of any other vehicle approaching from either direction within five hundred feet."

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(Exhibit Z-80, p.5.)

Based on the analysis of the documents provided by the applicant, the parking arrangement proposed is grossly inadequate:

The project is clearly under-parked relative to its size and projected use. Recommendation would be to scale back the project to provide an appropriate balance of code compliant parking at least, and at best, parking supply based on a nationwide analysis of mosques for this particular sect of Islam. This would not be a difficult study.

(Exhibit Z-80, p.7).

## f. <u>Transportation Management Plan analysis</u>

The appellant has no knowledge of whether the Transportation Management Plan submitted by the applicant is consistent with the traffic studies available. The latest version of the TMP available to the appellant was updated on January, 2014, with multiple traffic related documents submitted after that date.

The Decision does not indicate what performance levels should be achieved (per RZC 21.52.020.C) and delays the review of the TMP for later date ("A Transportation Management Program shall be submitted and approved by the City's Transportation Demand Management Division prior to civil construction drawing approval." Decision, Exhibit C-03, p.15). Resolving these issues once the building is built and occupied will be very difficult given its religious use (unlikely to require reduction in the congregation).

Both the Technical Committee decision and the applicant's Transportation

Management Plan mention 29 valet parking spaces (Exhibit Z-79, p.5 and throughout

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the document). However, as noted in the applicant' response to residents, "valet parking" does not actually include valet service:

When the AEB facility's full parking capacity is needed, AEB congregation members will park their own cars. Separate valet service is not required. meaning no pick-up point, staffing, or insurance is required. Wait times should not be an issue for any typical event, as the facility has adequate space for cars as they park.

(Exhibit Z-40, p.29). The TMP mentions 30 additional parking stalls for overflow parking at a VFW office lot; the document fails to mention how the drivers will determine that the lot is full (by driving to the site and then going to the offsite lot?) and particulars of the shuttle operation, providing only that:

Those parking at the VFW lot would be shuttled to and from the Masjid by designated AEB Community drivers.

(Exhibit Z-79, p. 6).

None of the traffic studies presented mention overflow parking and shuttle operations and specifically additional trips generated thereby.

The offsite operation procedure fails to take into account that in addition to shuttle possibly entering and exiting the site, there will be up to 65 cars parking on the lot at the same time.

The TMP does not project any growth, and most substantial mitigation it lists in case of traffic impacts is directing traffic manually ("AEB's CTC would also either contract with the local police or provide a properly trained flagger for additional support in appropriate traffic management." Exhibit Z-79, p.3).

Most tellingly, the TMP goals are not measurable (as required by RZC 21.52.020.C) and thus cannot be enforced either via TMP or future contingency measures. Neither the Decision nor the TMP list any conditions that hold the developer liable should mitigations of traffic and especially parking impacts fail.

## g. Off Site Parking.

In addition to this, the TMP does not provide a formal contract with the VFW or a binding memorandum of understanding; a contract provided only covers two dates in the past (November 13, 2013 and July 19, 2014) (Exhibit Z-79, p.9). RZC 21.08.280.C.5 provides specific requirements for such contracts which are not followed in the TMP:

A traffic mitigation plan shall be submitted for approval by the City. The plan shall address traffic control, parking management (including the mitigation of overflow parking into adjoining residential areas), and traffic movement to the arterial street system. In addition to on-site parking requirements, parking in excess of the maximum may be permitted on existing off-site satellite parking lots, subject to City approval of a joint use agreement. Off-site parking in residential zones shall be limited to lots shared with existing institutional uses, such as schools.

(Emphasis supplied). Neither the Decision nor the TMP provide any means of prevention of spillover off-site parking in the neighborhood.

The plan contingency measures listed are not adequate to address the potential 95 (maximum) vehicles traffic and parking impact; in case those measures fail TMP does not provide any specifics of relief to the public:

In the event that the stated goal is not achieved by the second year after implementation of contingency measures, AEB Community agrees to update the TMP with additional contingency measures as approved by the City of Redmond Technical Committee.

In summary, the Applicants traffic studies, and supposed arrangements for valet and off-site parking are wholly deficient and inadequate. The Examiner should remand to the City to address these deficiencies and make appropriate modifications to the proposed building and use to assure that transportation impacts are properly addressed.

## 6. ISSUE 7: A GUEST APARTMENT CANNOT BE INCLUDED AS PART OF PROJECT APPROVAL.

## **FACTS**

The project application as approved includes a guest apartment in addition to the parsonage (Exhibit Z-40, p.8; Exhibit Z-53, p.5).

#### LAW AND ANALYSIS

The guest apartment is not an allowed use in the R-5 zone per RZC 21.08.080, and it is not a common accessory use to religious facilities. As such, guest quarters should not be allowed.

# 7. ISSUE 8: CITY DID NOT APPLY SCALE, BULK AND NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER CODE PROVISIONS IN THE APPLICATION REVIEW

## **FACTS**

The building as presented on architectural plans is 22,657 sf of total area; the maximum height of the building from the average grade is 45 feet (Exhibit C-06).

The residences in the neighborhood have square footage in a range of 1,500-3,000 sf; typical homes are built in the 60s-80s and are mostly of split-level type with the height well below 30 feet (see Exhibits Z-61, Z-62, Z-63 for typical homes).

The proposed building location is on the hill overlooking the neighborhood and the silhouette of the building is similar in scale and bulk to industrial office building located in the Microsoft campus across NE 51<sup>st</sup> Street (Exhibit Z-64, applicant's presentation to DRB, p.14; Exhibit Z-10).

### LAW AND ANALYSIS

The city policies and standards speak to the new developments being of appropriate bulk and scale, and are supportive of the neighborhood character. The RZC at Section 21.76.070(B) under "Criteria Applicable to All Land Use Permits" requires

3.Criteria.

a.Consistency. Land use permits are reviewed by the City to determine consistency between the proposed project and the applicable regulations and Comprehensive Plan provisions.

Redmond's and Overlake's Comprehensive plan policies speak extensively to neighborhood character:

LU-9 Maintain development regulations to promote compatibility between uses; retain desired neighborhood character; ... Through these regulations address features, including but not limited to:

• Building height, bulk, placement and separation:

LU-30 Allow some compatible nonresidential uses in Residential zones, such as appropriately scaled schools, religious facilities, ... Maintain standards in the Redmond Zoning Code for locating and designing these uses in a manner that respects the character and scale of the neighborhood.

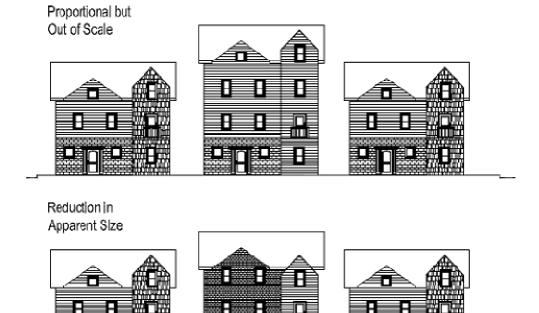
. . .

OV-11 Provide for transitional uses and transitional building and site design to protect nearby residential neighborhoods. ...

 Maintaining regulations on building bulk, building placement, site and building lighting, landscaping, noise control and other appropriate measures.

. .

## Figure 21.60.020B Relationships to Adjacent Properties



Careful designing can reduce the apparent size of new buildings, allowing them to ft in with smaller buildings.

b. The site's zoning and other relevant Comprehensive Plan policies shall be considered as indicators of the desired direction for the area and project.

And also in RZC 21.60.040.B design standards speak to building scale:

## 2. Building Scale.

- a. Intent.
- I. To ensure new development is compatible with the goals for the neighborhood and with the architectural scale [the scale of the building(s) in relation to surrounding development] and character of those surrounding developments that meet the intent of the City's design review criteria;
- II. To ensure buildings are based on human scale (the scale of the building and how it relates to the people that use it);
- III. To ensure that large buildings reduce their apparent mass and bulk on the elevations visible from streets or pedestrian routes;

With Design Criteria speaking to means to reduce apparent building scale.

RZC 21.78 defines "neighborhood character" as

**Neighborhood Character.** The various elements of a neighborhood that give it a distinct "personality," including but not limited to land uses (e.g., residential/commercial mix and population), urban design (e.g., bulk, scale, form) ....

In addition to approving Comprehensive Plan and Design Standards that protect the neighborhood character, Redmond City Council also approved special zoning for Overlake Business and Advance Technology (OBAT) area, covering Microsoft campus located across NE 51<sup>st</sup> Street from the proposed development and the neighborhood. As part of OBAT specific land use provisions, RZC established height overlay at the edges of OBAT zone (in RZC 21.12.210.C)

- 2. Height Limit Overlay
- a. Purpose. This section establishes special height limits as shown on Map 12.7, Overlake Business and Advanced Technology (OBAT) Height Limits. The intent of this requirement is to promote compatibility on the edges of zones that allow more intense uses than abutting zones and to minimize adverse impacts such as glare.
- b. Map 12.7-Overlake Business and Advanced Technology (OBAT) Height Limits.

The OBAT area directly opposing the proposed development falls in a 35-foot Height Limit Overlay Area. That speaks to the concern of industrial building scale and bulk intruding into the residential neighborhood.

The AEB proposal is not compliant with the above-mentioned sections of the Comprehensive Plan and Design Standards. Moreover, the staff and Design Review Board have ignored the residents' comments presenting the compliance issues and the project was approved by the DRB.

The proposed building is out of scale with the neighborhood; as shown in Exhibit Z-90, the majority of adjacent homes have an average area of 2,000 sf, and the AEB structure is order of magnitude larger. The height of the proposed building is 30 feet facing 51<sup>st</sup> Street; however, due to the location of the site at the top of the hill the building will loom over the neighborhood (Exhibit Z-64, p.14). Then there are also additional features (the minaret/the mechanical room) that bring the maximum height to 45 feet.

The proposed building bulk is at odds with the adjacent homes; a 22,000+ sf building with the flat roof (Exhibit Z-64, pp.19-20) is evidently not comparable with Pacific NW split-level homes in the area (Exhibit Z-64, p.6, Exhibits Z-61, Z-62, Z-63 for representative neighborhood homes); the silhouette is very indicative of the difference (Exhibit Z-64, p.14).

The proposed building is not visually compatible with and does not conform to the neighborhood urban design. Flat roof, exterior stucco décor, the height exceeding all homes in the area and particularly the building size and bulk make it non-conformant to the neighborhood character. In the words of one of the Design Review Boards members "... the mosque may be foreign now, but will blend in as time passes" (Exhibit C-09, p.3). Yet Redmond code starting with the Comprehensive Plan does not allow non-compliant projects to be approved.

The proposed building's scale and bulk are inconsistent with OBAT overlay intent; the stated goal of the overlay is to provide the transition between the commercial uses in OBAT area and the adjacent residential neighborhood. Yet the

AEB building scale, bulk and height are on par with commercial buildings, such as Microsoft, not allowing for transition between commercial and residential areas as intended; the proposed development is comparable in visual scale to Microsoft commercial office buildings rather than to the residential homes.

The Design Standards Checklist submitted to the board does not include staff evaluations (Exhibit C-07, "City Staff Evaluation" column). In relation to compliance with RZC 21.60.020.D "Relationship to Adjacent Properties" and specifically visual compatibility with the neighborhood, the applicant simply states that

In both size/use the mosque is very compatible with and appropriate to its residential zone.

Yet the proposed building size is order of magnitude greater than a typical home in the area (Exhibit Z-90). And as to visual compatibility and gradual transition, at 45' maximum height, flat roof and stucco external décor the building does not relate well to adjacent Pacific NW split level houses in the neighborhood.

In relation to 21.60.040.B.2 "Building Scale" compliance:

DRB 18-20 better indicate the true scale of the facility: human and appropriately residential. While referencing grander scaled facilities, the complex's features have been downscaled to adapt it to its property size, zoning, and congregation size. The complex is set back from the entry to take advantage of perspective and provide a uniquely interesting building ridgeline against the backdrop of mature and maturing landscape rising above it.

This does not relate to the building architectural scale; the building scale is at odds with the neighborhood homes (Exhibit Z-90). Moreover, the building footprint has undergone continuous increase throughout the project review:

- In pre-application narrative from Feb 23, 2012 (Exhibit Z-53) the applicant discusses building of 18,382 sf.
- In a January 23, 2013 narrative (Exhibit Z-43) the building footprint increased to 20,087 sf.
- On August 22, 2013 at Design Review Board (Exhibit Z-44, staff memo to DRB, including board minutes for August 22, 2013 meeting, p.30) the project presented was 22,467 sf.
- In the April 6, 2017 Design Review Board staff memo (Exhibit Z-44, staff memo to DRB, p.1) the project is 22,657 sf.

The city staff did not include considerations of scale, bulk and neighborhood in its presentation memo to the DRB (Exhibit Z-44). In the memo addressing residents' comments provided to the DRB, which the staff provided prior to the start of the board deliberation (Exhibit Z-52), the city staff stated that design standards provisions 21.60.020D are not applicable to the application.

Staff believes that this section is not applicable to this application. The Intent statements are the actual "design standards" and the focus of these items are to "encourage" and "promote". Additionally, religious facilities are allowed within residential zones and the issues of adjacencies are addressed under RZC 21.08.280 Churches, Temples, Synagogues, and Other Places of Worship

The staff statement contradicts RZC 21.76.020.E that requires new developments to be compliant with design standards.

The staff memo also rejected the residents' comments related to the bulk and scale:

The height of the principle structure (minus the dome) from the street will be

less than 30 feet in height, less than the typical single family home. Finally, RZC 21.08.280 Churches, Temples, Synagogues, and Other Places of Worship, also speak to code requirements for help address building scale within the residential neighborhoods.

Notably the comment only addressed the height from one direction, and the height quoted did not include the total height (including minaret and the mechanical room the height is 45 feet – which is significantly greater than typical home height [Exhibit Z-]). Moreover, the project site location at the top of the hill dominating the neighborhood is not mentioned (Exhibit Z-10).

In their response to the residents' comments, the city staff agreed that the scale of the proposed development is not compatible with the residential neighborhood (Exhibit Z-40, p.5):

As noted in the citizen's comment, the proposed mosque is not of the same scale as the adjacent residential dwellings and therefore creates a conflict between the design standard noted above and the zoning code (RZC 21.08.280). However, as noted above under RZC 21.58.020.D, when there is conflict between the design standards and the zoning code, the zoning code shall supersede. In this scenario, the standards for religious facilities found under RZC 21.08.280 govern and supersede the design standards.

The fact that RZC had a section dedicated to religious land use (RZC 21.08.280) does not invalidate design standards or comprehensive plan, contrary to the city's interpretation. Should the zoning code unconditionally override the comprehensive plan intent and the design standards, it would have rendered those superfluous.

However, the applicant, the city staff and the Design Review Board ignored

Comprehensive Plan provisions and alleged that the design standards speaking to the

context, bulk and scale are not enforceable and are overridden by the provisions of RZC 21.08.280.

The courts have held in *Jones v. King County*, 74 Wn.App. 467, 475-476 (1994) that "every provision in an ordinance must be read in relation to every other provision such as to harmonize the terms and avoid internal conflicts." (quoting Addleman v. Board of Prison Terms & Paroles, 107 Wn.2d 503, 509, 730 P.2d 1327 (1986)), and that "an ordinance should not be construed in a manner that renders any portion superfluous" (quoting Avlonitis v. Seattle Dist. Court, 97 Wn.2d 131, 138, 641 P.2d 169, 646 P.2d 128 (1982).

The comprehensive plan policies and design standards do not prevent religious uses but require them to be scaled appropriately. At the proposed scale, the bulk and height of the building is inconsistent with adjacent residences and thus does not satisfy the comprehensive plan policies and design standards.

The city has enforced scale & bulk requirements for other projects. Specifically, in the case of the Emerald Heights assisted living project (Exhibit Z-67, Emerald Heights presentation to DRB), the city stated that the project is out of scale and not consistent with the neighborhood character (Exhibit Z-66, p.4, letter from the City to Emerald Heights). The original project has height of 31 feet with the building fully screened by the trees from the neighborhood located across the street (Exhibit Z-67, pp.51-52) – compare to the dominating location of the AEB building overlooking the neighborhood (Exhibit Z-10).

"The City must interpret and enforce the City Code as written, without adding new criteria on a case-by-case basis." *Schroeder v. Bellevue*, 83 Wn. App. 188, 193, 920 P.2d 12 1216 (1996).

The proposed AEB mosque is out of character with the homes in the neighborhood. The Hearing Examiner should remand the matter for a redesign to assure it will be consistent with the character of this long established residential area.

## 8. ISSUE 9: THE APPROVED PROJECT IS NOT REVIEWED OR CONDITIONED ON OVERALL BUILDING CAPACITY.

#### **FACTS**

The Decision discusses the traffic and parking impacts in terms of the seating capacity for the prayer area only. As approved the prayer area represents about 12.6% of the total area of the building that includes multi-purpose areas, a rooftop deck, a kitchen, a storage area, library and twelve classrooms, together with two residences (Exhibit Z-88, pp. 6-8). As described above in Section 4, page 13, the proposal must comply with parking regulations for assembly uses and, as described in Section 2, page 3, the current proposal is not consistent with parking regulations related to seating.

It has been indicated by the applicant that the use of the facility will include office use, Saturday school classes, and community events such as weddings (Exhibit Z-69, AEB letter to the Mayor, p.4). The applicant has also indicated potential renting of space to the general public (Exhibit Z-70, AEB comments on FB).

#### LAW AND ANALYSIS

The Decision only conditions approval based on "seats" within the assembly area. Clearly that does not represent the *only* use of the building, and based on relative area the other uses may generate comparable or greater traffic and parking demand. The events or classroom use may include guests that are not members of the congregation; when renting out the space the capacity is only predicated on the building area available.

Notably the traffic impact assessment documents presented by the applicant's engineers fail to take into account all potential uses and concentrate on the religious assembly use. The traffic and parking demand should be based off the building capacity for different uses to provide adequate predictions (the applicant uses religious events only community size as a variable to predict the impacts).

The Decision failed to address various assembly uses by basing the approval on just the 147 seating spaces in prayer area. The maximum of overall building capacity must be included in approval conditions for the Site Plan Entitlement.

Consideration of traffic and parking must consider the location of the facility.

See RZC 21.76.070.Y.1:

- d. The adequacy of streets and utilities in the area of the subject property to serve the anticipated demand from the proposal.
- e. Determination that the proposed access to the subject property is the optimal location and configuration for access.

As described herein, the only access of this use to the public street system is to a fully controlled limited access road way and the access is limited to right-in, right-out turning movements.

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#### LAW AND ANALYSIS

The current seating capacity as approved allows for no growth whatsoever. At 150 seats the project is already over capacity for the current congregation and it allows for no guests at religious events (prayer area capacity is at maximum) and allows for no children or new members to be added to the congregation. Certainly, evidence indicates that the religious assembly area may have dense seating. (See Exhibits Z-95, Z-96).

The applicant does not believe the facility will be a transition point, the plan is to build and stay:

The applicant noted that this would be a long term project, and that many generations of this religious sect would use this facility in future years, and potentially make changes, as needed.

(Exhibit Z-44, staff memo to DRB, including board minutes for July 18, 2013 meeting, p.22)

... the AEB Community looks at making Redmond the focus of its lives in the Pacific NW, ...

(Exhibit Z-79, p.3.)

Considering that many members of the congregation work in Information

Technology (IT) – as indicated by the applicant ("about 60% work at Microsoft", Exhibit Z-58, p.4), and considering Washington State migration patterns and reasonable birth rate projections, the notions that the congregation size went unchanged since 2011 (no members joined or left, no births registered in six years) and that the project is

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over the allowed capacity before it is issued building permits – before building permits were even applied for - defy common sense.

And to add to this, the new location will provide multiple additional amenities that would make growth of congregation in Redmond and PNW much more likely:

- The proposed building size is 22,000+ sf and the building will include storage, study classes, library, kitchen, dining and multipurpose gathering areas in addition to prayer assembly space;
- In contrast with the existing location, in the new building the priest quarters will be located onsite and the priest will likely hold office hours;
- Located across from a Microsoft campus (where even now a majority of the congregation work).

Contrast the proposal with the existing congregation space located in an unpermitted location in Kirkland's office park (Exhibits Z-93 & Z-94) and with only 2,300 sf available (Exhibit Z-86).

The applicant's engineers' traffic memos assume either no growth or arbitrary yearly growth (Exhibit Z-86, TSI comments to WSDOT, p.2). But if one was to consider other locations for Dawoodi Bohra mosques, the growth is anything but flat. In Houston, where a second mosque needed to be built in 2012 as the community has experienced 7% yearly growth (Exhibit Z-71):

The magnificent size of this building is just what Houston needs, at an annual growth rate of 7%, our jamaat size will double in ten years.

According to the Decision, any growth at all will invalidate the entitlement. Additional project documents (TMP, Exhibit Z-79) do not incorporate any growth projections and will become immediately outdated.

The City ignored obvious discrepancies in approving maximum seating capacity and made no attempt to figure in reasonable growth forecasts for traffic and parking purposes

The SPE should be returned to staff to calculate traffic, parking and other impacts of this use based on reasonable growth of the AEB congregation.

# 10. ISSUE 11: THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE DECISION IGNORED THE PROJECT IMPACT ON A HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR.

#### **FACTS**

Since at least 2011, it has been known that Sound Transit's East Link to Redmond would be on or adjacent to the AEB property. See Exhibit Z-98.

Sound Transit is in process of reviewing required property acquisitions for the construction of ST3. The project will require building noise abatement wall along the railway tracks, affecting multiple properties along SR-520, including the subject property (Exhibit Z-72, ST preliminary plan for RTC to Downtown Redmond Link Extension).

Sound Transit plans call for a 20-foot easement along the western portion of the property for the purpose of building the wall; the easement would need to be clear of vegetation and any improvements. The Sound Transit Board Adopted Resolution No.

R2018-14 on May 24, 2018, which authorizes acquisition of this easement over the AEB property. See Exhibit Z-97.

The Anjuman E Burhani proposal would locate landscape buffers and a driveway in the area of the future noise abatement wall easement

- c. A Type I Solid Screen, 10-foot wide landscape buffer is required along the north and west property lines which abut single-family residential uses. Type I planting consists of evergreen trees and evergreen shrubs with a minimum height of five feet at planting, which will provide an 80% sightobscuring screen at the time of planting; or a combination of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs backed by a 100% sight-obscuring, decorative wall or fence.
- d. A Type II Visual Screen, landscape buffer is required along the west and south property lines which would screen the proposed parking lot from proposed sidewalks. Type II planting consists of evergreen trees and deciduous trees with large shrubs and groundcover interspersed with the trees.

Exhibit Z-44, p.3; also see Exhibit C-06, p.5 & p.8 for the landscaping and parking plans

### **Law and Analysis**

Redmond Zoning Code Chapter 21.28 addressing "High Capacity Transit Corridor Preservation" purported to prevent development of projects or parts thereof that have potential to interfere with Sound Transit East Link Light Rail project.

One stated purpose of RZC 21.28.010 is to "(p)revent encroachment of structures into a future transit corridor". This section of the code applies to all properties in the High Capacity Transit Corridor and aims to "(s)upport the extension of light rail to Overlake, Southeast Redmond, and Downtown Redmond as part of Sound Transit's East Link Light Rail project". Id.

The AEB proposal in its current design will clearly affect the upcoming development of Sound Transit tracks connecting RTC to Downtown Redmond. As indicated in the East Link FEIS at pages 2-36 to 38, the link light rail will pass under N.E. 51st Street in an excavation immediately adjacent to the project. Exhibit Z-98. The proposal is in conflict with ST3 plans and thus goes against the intent, the stated goals and the requirements of the RZC 21.28:

#### 21.28.030 Transit-Related Setbacks

A. No new structure may be built, or any existing structure expanded, between the property line and the transit-related setback line shown in the High Capacity Transit Corridor Preservation Map Book. These regulations do not apply to patios, outdoor seating and other easily removable structures.

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D. The Technical Committee may expand, reduce, or waive the required setback in order to meet the purpose of this chapter, ....

The city was informed of Sound Transit plans (Exhibit Z-73, Zakhareyev email to city), however ignored the obvious conflicts of the two projects (Exhibit Z-74, city staff email response, p.5):

The plan you provided for SDOT does not appear to have any impacts on the project that can be discerned at this time. Additionally, should the project be approved there is no reason to believe it would create any delays with project plans as we know them for SDOT. Should SDOT need to work with the property owner to obtain rights for additional land it would not impact the current proposal. If there is a chance it could create a future legal non-conformance it would not impact the current proposal or construction of it. Additionally, the decision criteria for Site Plan Entitlement is the parameter the City has authority to issue a decision for on the project and allow the City to limit an approval based upon possible future setback needs of another entity if not currently recorded and in-place. Echoing the above however, there does not appear from the drawing provided or plans the City has viewed that there would be any impacts or constraints to SDOT's project needs or the applicant's proposal.

Based on the staff response, the project review clearly excluded HCT criteria

(reference to SPE decision criteria above). However, as shown (reference to our response to dispositive motions), SPE decision criteria incorporate the whole of RZC, inclusive of section 21.28.

The noise abatement wall and elements of AEB project proposal cannot be built on the same 20-feet strip of land. Additionally, since the wall will need a maintenance access on both sides it will not only affect the location landscaping, parking and driveway but the setbacks of the AEB building.

In approving the project proposal, the Technical Committee choose not to exercise the intent of RZC 21.28.030.D via expanding the required setback.

Local residents have repeatedly asked the city staff how the AEB project would coexist with the planned Sound Transit development. In 2014, the city staff responded on how AEB project will affect the proposed Sound Transit extension (Exhibit Z-75, city staff email to Zakhareyev):

The City meets with Sound Transit on a regular basis and is currently discussing Phases 1 and 2 with Sound Transit. Phase 3 is not in the design phase and is currently unfunded. The City continues to design City projects to accommodate the future Phase 3 project; however, the City has no legal authorization to impact or restrict projects on private property based on a perceived future impact.

In light of RZC 21.28.030 provisions, the statement about the City's legal authorization is not consistent with code requirements. Sound Transit Phase 3 was approved by voters on November 8, 2016. See Exhibit Z-97, Resolution No. R2018-14, page 1.

However, in 2017, the staff responded once again to the residents' concerns (Exhibit Z-40, p.17):

The City has a High Capacity Corridor which maps out areas set aside for Sound Transit development and this proposal is not within the corridor needed by Sound Transit for their future expansions.

During that time frame, Sound Transit has already commenced the work on ST3 design. The plans clearly show that the proposal *is* within the corridor needed by Sound Transit. See Exhibit Z-72.

Despite ST3 being approved in 2016 and design work commencement shortly thereafter, High Capacity Transit Corridor Preservation Map Book was last updated in April 16, 2011 (Exhibit Z-76).

Thus not only the city staff ignored the issues when brought to their attention by the residents, it has also failed to act on Redmond Zoning Code provisions that are there with the exclusive goal facilitate and support Sound Transit light rail extension into Redmond.

#### 11. CONCLUSION AND REQUESTED RELIEF.

As outlined in this brief, the AEB proposal is inconsistent with multiple sections of Redmond codes and relies on inaccurate and incomplete traffic and parking analysis. The Hearing Examiner should remand the proposal to staff for modification consistent with the analysis in this brief and with the evidence presented at the hearing.

Respectfully submitted on this \_\_\_\_ day of August, 2018.

ARAMBURU & EUSTIS, LLF

J. Richard Aramburu, WSBA #466

Attorney for Appellant

### 1 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE 2 I am an employee in the law offices of ARAMBURU & EUSTIS, LLP, well over eighteen years of age and competent to be a witness herein. On the date below, I 3 distributed copies of the foregoing document to counsel of record by email PRIOR TO 4 3:00 P.M.: 5 Office of the Hearing Examiner, c/o cdxanthos@redmond.gov James Haney, Redmond City Attorney, jhaney@omwlaw.com Sarah Mack, Attorney for Applicants, mack@tmw-law.com, cc cohee@tmw-law.com Applicants eliyasy@microsoft.com, ahaveliwala@gmail.com Planner dlee@redmond.gov 8 Appellant eugenez@outlook.com 9 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. 10 DATED: September 4, 2018. 11 Mol Cohoe 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25